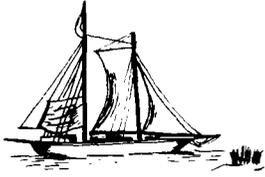


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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY COLLEGE WOODBIDGE, CALIFORNIA

By Celia Adams Myers

(Continued from the April-June 1977 Issue)

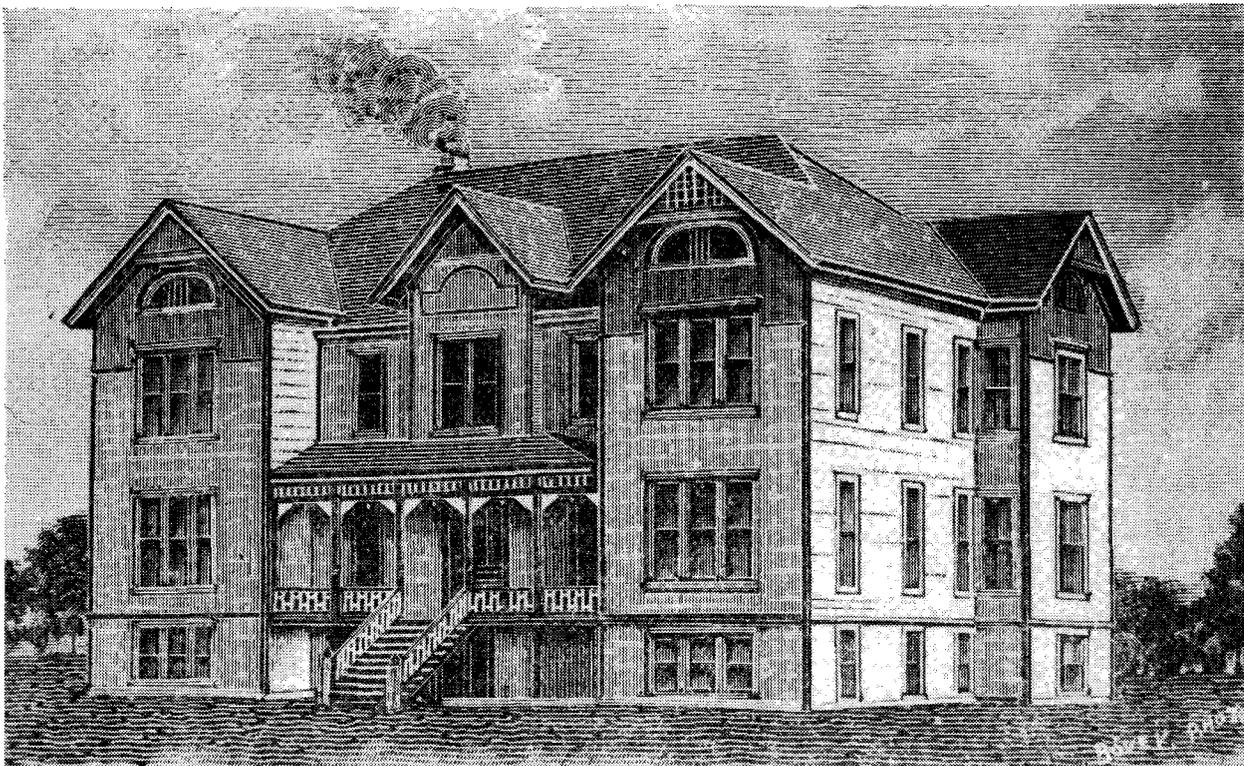
EDITOR'S NOTE:

With this issue we conclude Mrs. Myers' history of one of the earliest colleges founded in the San Joaquin Valley. Built originally by public subscription among the residents of the Woodbridge area, the building first saw service as a private secondary school. Later (in 1883), college-level courses were introduced and the B.A. degree was offered to its graduates. Following the decision of the United Brethren Church in 1897 to close the school, the building lay vacant until its re-opening as a public elementary school in

1903. Re-named the Woods Grammar School, it remained in public service until it was razed in 1922 and replaced by a modern school plant.

Mobley went on to express great optimism that the new building would pay for itself in increased enrollment if everyone worked diligently to encourage students to enroll in the college.

There had been other problems during the 1890-91 school



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY COLLEGE BOARDING HOUSE. The two-story plus basement wood-frame building had been erected

on the corner of Orange and Carolina streets. Photo taken from a college catalog sketch.

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year for the president to contend with which he mentioned in his report. Such departments as Business and Music, etc., were not part of the college proper. They were self-sustaining with their own principals. The principal of the Business Department proved to be incompetent; his students were reported to be unruly and disinterested, causing trouble throughout the student body. They were finally able to have the principal dismissed for irregularities in the operation of his department.

This was also the year when the general good health heretofore enjoyed by the residents of Woodbridge and of the college failed them. It was a winter of much sickness among both students and faculty. Death took one student, also one of the most valued members of the school's Board of Trustees and several of their supporting patrons. But as to the general outlook for the college, Prof. Mobley said "the future is largely what we make it." He ended his annual report on an optimistic note with recommendations regarding operations in the coming school year.

The 1890-91 report proved to be Mobley's last. During the summer of 1891 he tendered his resignation as president, having decided to return to the profession for which he had trained—the church ministry. He had arranged to enter the active ministry in Pennsylvania, but before he and his family could leave California his wife became seriously ill and was unable to travel. He then joined the faculty of Stockton High School, became principal and stayed there in that capacity until 1903. He finally did return to the ministry in the Presbyterian Church in California. He died in Vallejo in 1929 at the age of 74. He and his wife were both buried in the Woodbridge Cemetery.

Although Darius Mobley had never lost his devotion to church work, yet it must have been with a sad heart that he made the decision to leave San Joaquin Valley College. He more than anyone else was determined that it should succeed. It represented the hope and fulfillment of his church in maintaining a college in California. He was undoubtedly saddened in knowing that his untiring devotion had not been matched by the trustees and church members who failed to display the same unswerving dedication to making the college a success.

In August, 1891, the Executive Committee selected Professor J. G. Huber of Millville, Ohio, (presumably from one of the United Brethren schools in the east) to replace Professor Mobley. On the instructional level the school did very well under Huber, but the problems concerning financial support of the school did not improve. After serving only two terms the new president resigned on May 20, 1893, and he was in turn replaced by Professor W. J. Ham.

In his report to the Board of Trustees dated May 21, 1894, the new president explained what happened next:

After the adjournment of the Board last year the arrangement set on foot to turn over the institution to the faculty was carried out. [Mobley was invited to return as president but he refused.] The contract was entered into with E. H. Ridenour, J. H. Francis, Mark Keppel and W. J. Ham. Professor Ridenour did not insist on the leave of absence granted by the Board but returned and fulfilled his position during the year. Professor Keppel was changed to the chair of Natural Science. Professor Alice Gingrich was elected Principal of the Music Department January 1st, 1894. Professor C. B. Newton was elected to the Department of Elocution. All of the teachers have faithfully attempted to do their work and results show how well they have succeeded. Soon after our last commencement the persons entering into the contract with the Board painted the

college building at an expense of money and labor of more than two hundred dollars.

Improvements and repairs were made to the boarding hall. To quote further from the report: "Much less expense would have been necessary at the hall had the faculty been able to see far enough ahead. The promise of students justified the expenditure but the hard times interfered with the cherished hope of many young men and women."²⁰

Other serious maintenance problems needed to be resolved. The roof of the college building needed major repairs to save the interior plaster and wallpaper. The furnace at the boarding hall was not working properly and was in need of repair before the arrival of the next winter season.

The following excerpts from Ham's report summed up the feeling of the faculty: "After meeting all necessary expenses but small compensation has been left to the teachers, indeed less than a living to those having families Of one thing you may be assured, your faculty cannot do entirely satisfactory work as long as they are compelled to do the amount of work now required of them The great want of the college is funds to pay its faculty If students could be secured in sufficient number, this want would be supplied Heretofore the faculty has made known to the president of your Board that cancellation of the contract entered into is desired. No different sentiment has been entertained"

Many things had hindered the advancement of the college. One was the appointment of a new bishop to California in 1885. Bishop Milton Wright could have given great assistance if he had spoken on behalf of the college as he visited the communities of central California. But he was deeply involved with the coming General Conference when a proposal to liberalize the National constitution of the church was to be decided. He was adamantly opposed to any changes and he lectured on his viewpoint wherever he went. The congregations were deeply divided over these proposals. Many withdrew from the church in the face of the Bishop's stand. Those who left the church failed to honor pledges previously made to the college, and reduced congregations produced smaller donations for the school and fewer student prospects.

THE CLOSING OF THE SCHOOL

During the fifteen years since the founding of the San Joaquin Valley College as the Woodbridge Seminary in 1879, other colleges had opened their doors and a number of them in northern California had grown rapidly in stature and prestige. Parents had lost some of their reluctance to sending their offspring away to school. As a result an increasing number of students were bypassing their local colleges to seek expanding educational opportunities elsewhere.

The final and fatal blow to many of the private schools operating without a substantial endowment was the rapid growth of the tuition-free, tax-supported high school system. By 1894 Stockton had a public four year high school program. In 1896 Lodi opened a tax-supported four-year high school. The year proved to be very successful, and the voters decided the following year to continue the high school on a permanent basis. This may well have been the "last straw" as the San Joaquin Valley College had depended heavily on local (Lodi-Woodbridge area) students for the largest part of its enrollment.

Two quotations sum up the problems leading to the inevitable closure of the school. The Lodi News-Sentinel of May 18, 1956, quotes from the 1897 history of the church by

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Daniel Burger: "The institution is necessarily dependent in large degree upon the people of other denominations being owned by but a single conference [United Brethren Church in California] of less than a thousand members, and this support comes in generous degree. It is apparent that with but one conference to support this college, and that conference having but so small a membership, it must struggle with unusual difficulty in carrying forward its work and surprise must be felt that it has accomplished such results as have been reached, and that, instead of a debt of a few thousand dollars it is not overwhelmed with embarrassment."

In his history of the United Brethren Church in California entitled *From Saddlebags to Satellites*, J. Russell Davis stated: "In short, all that was humanly possible was done to support and maintain the institution, and one can only marvel at the sacrifice and dedication manifested in its operation for as long as it was maintained; but their vision was larger than their means and perhaps even their hopes . . ."

Regarding the demise of the college, Dr. Davis quoted the following from the minutes of the 1897 Conference session:

Your 'Committee on Education' beg leave to report as follows:

Whereas, The safety, happiness and progress of man depend on the full development of all his powers and faculties, and

Whereas, The public school system is eliminating more and more of the culture of the moral and religious part of man's being, to the detriment of morality and increase of skepticism and crime, We recognize with pleasure the efforts to promote temperance instruction, and believe it is the future duty of the church to provide Christian schools, colleges and annexes to state universities, wherein morals and religion may be taught in connection with secular instruction.

We regret that the stringent financial conditions and the

increasing number of high schools and universities which offer schooling tuition free, have turned so many students away from our college at Woodbridge, as to render it impractical to conduct a school any longer at that place.

We deplore the fact that the suspension of the school will involve financial loss to certain persons who have made loans and investments and rendered services which the trustees see no way to pay . . ."

The report also mentioned the boarding hall, valued at approximately \$10,000 when built in 1891, which had an outstanding mortgage of \$1,800 still due. Unable to raise the funds necessary to pay off the indebtedness, the building was soon after taken over by the Stockton Land, Loan and Building Association, holders of the mortgage.

With no alternative plans for continuing the school the trustees of the San Joaquin Valley College voted on November 22, 1897, to reconvey the property known as "The Academy Block of the Thomas Addition to Woodbridge" to the Trustees of the Woodbridge Seminary Property to wit: Victor Jahant, B. F. Langford, E. G. Rutledge, A. M. Harshner and A. S. Thomas. This was in accordance with the terms of the deed by which the College Association had been using the school property. Since it was no longer practical to maintain such a school, the president of the college trustees, A. H. Cowell, and the secretary, W. J. Ham, were directed to prepare the necessary papers to return the property to its original owners or their successors. The deed of reconveyance was dated November 23, 1897.

The trustees receiving the Seminary property failed to pay the taxes the following year. With \$41 due the property was sold to the state. After the passage of five years in which no one of the original owners redeemed the land by paying the delinquent taxes, the Academy Block was auctioned to the highest bidder. On August 10, 1903, the property was sold to Frank Perrott of Woodbridge for the high bid of \$199.25. On October 3, 1903, a deed was recorded



DEDICATION CEREMONIES at the site of the College, held on May 19, 1956, under the auspices of the Northern San Joaquin County Historical Society. The automobiles to the rear

of the assembly are parked on Lilac Street which runs along the west side of the school grounds.

Courtesy of the San Joaquin County Historical Museum.

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wherein Frank Perrott and Lizzie Perrott gave this property to the Woods School District for \$10 in gold coin. The Woods Grammar School held classes in the Seminary building until 1922 when it was torn down to make way for a new school building. Before dismantling began, a delegation of the United Brethren congregation of Stockton traveled to Woodbridge and held an appropriate ceremony of tribute in memory of the San Joaquin Valley College, its dedicated staff, and its many students.

The closing of the San Joaquin Valley College was a matter of deep sadness and sincere regret to the many people involved with the school as well as to the entire Woodbridge community. However, the sponsors of the institution and its faculty could look back with justifiable pride on their accomplishments. They had given a creditable education and moral leadership to countless young people who would otherwise have had to do without. These young men and young women in turn enriched the lives of all with whom they came in contact. Many of the graduates became teachers, many held important positions in business, a few achieved fame in the political field. All were undoubtedly better citizens because of their association with the school.

In 1956, with a desire to recognize the valuable contribution made by this college to education in the San Joaquin Valley, the Northern San Joaquin County Historical Society²¹ requested the State Landmarks Commission to grant landmark status to the site of the San Joaquin Valley College. The Landmarks Commission concurred with the Historical Society and assigned Landmark #520 to the college site at Woodbridge. The dedication of the marker was held on May 19, 1956, under the auspices of the Northern San Joaquin County Historical Society. The plaque donated by the State reads as follows:

Built through subscription by the residents of Woodbridge and dedicated as the Woodbridge Seminary in 1879 by the United Brethren Church, this was the site of the San Joaquin Valley College 1882-1897. It was used as Woods Grammar School until 1922 when the building was dismantled.

Historical Landmark No. 520. Plaque erected by the California State Park Commission in cooperation with the Northern San Joaquin County Historical Society, May 19, 1956. Dedicated to the memory of the teachers and students of the college.



FLOOD SCENE at Woodbridge, 1907. Note the United Brethren Church building on the right side of photograph. This

is the only known photo of the structure which was opened in 1879 and closed in 1917.

Taken from **Mountain Men to Astronauts**, with permission of the author, Naomi McCallum Carey.

AUTHOR'S & EDITOR'S NOTES

1. American settlers had begun taking up land in the Woodbridge area as early as the fall of 1850, although clear titles to these parcels were not granted until after the U.S. Supreme Court had declared, in February of 1865, that the claim of Andrew Pico to several thousand acres north of Weber's grant was not valid. The grant had supposedly been given to Pico by his brother, Pio, in 1846 while the latter was governor of Alta California. In 1851 the Sargent brothers (Ross C. and J. P.) and George W. Emerson planted about fifty acres of barley on the actual site of Woodbridge.

The following year (1852) two partners, Jeremiah H. Woods and Alexander McQueen, bought the land claimed by the Sargent brothers and established a ferry across the Mokelumne River. The site of the ferry crossing is about where the present bridge and dam span the river. In 1854 the stages running between Stockton and Sacramento adopted this more direct route in place of the original Staples' Ferry crossing further upstream. In 1858 Woods built a bridge to replace the ferry. It was long known simply as the Woods' bridge, and when the settlement was laid out on the south side of the river the following April, it took the name "Woodbridge." Woods died

in 1864. Among the noted early settlers buried at the Woodbridge cemetery, according to William N. Abeloe in his **Historic Spots in California**, is William Lewis Manly, leader of the first group of immigrants to make its way across Death Valley in 1849 on its way to the California gold fields.

2. The railroad line through San Joaquin County was an addition to the original Central Pacific's transcontinental line from Sacramento to Ogden, Utah, completed in 1869. This local section was an extension from the Sacramento terminal to San Jose and the Bay Area; it was completed in September, 1869, with the construction of the railroad bridge spanning the San Joaquin River at today's Mossdale Y." Three land owners along the route, A. T. Ayers, J. W. Magley, and R. L. Wardrobe, offered the Central Pacific (now Southern Pacific) eighty acres of their land on both sides of the line just below the Mokelumne River providing that the company establish a station on the site. This the Central Pacific did, and in the same year (1869) construction began on a depot. On November 17th a post office was opened in a hotel building (Hooker House) just recently moved in from Woodbridge, and the settlement was officially named "Mokelumne

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Station." The town site was located about three-quarters of a mile south of the river (the first building on the site, a combination home and store, was on the corner of today's Pine and Sacramento streets). In December a stage line was established between the new railroad station and Mokelumne Hill in the Mother Lode. Within the year a non-denominational community church, open to all "except the Mormons," had been constructed. (The wrath of God--or of someone else--reduced the building to ashes the Sunday night of its opening, but a new and larger edifice was promptly constructed on the same spot.) On February 25, 1873, the name of the post office was officially changed to "Lodi" in order to avoid the confusion which had resulted because of the similarity between Mokelumne Station and the better-known Mokelumne Hill--not to mention the pioneer little settlement of Mokelumne City which had been established on the south bank of the river several miles above Thornton. By 1879--the same year that the U. B. C. Church opened its Woodbridge Seminary--Lodi had a population of approximately 450 persons.

3. The high school classes held in the old Washington Grammar School in Stockton were the only public-school secondary courses anywhere in the county at that time. This two-story brick schoolhouse had been erected in 1869 and opened the following January. Two of the upstairs rooms were reserved for the twenty-nine Stockton boys and girls who made up the secondary school group, grades 10, 11, and 12. Three seniors comprised the first graduating class (on December 23, 1870); Lottie and Ewald Grunsky, and Alice Mills. Each received a diploma and a county teacher's certificate. The program grew slowly; in 1894 the elementary schools were restructured so that all ninth-year students were sent to the Washington School, thus establishing the traditional four-year high school program and finally, at the turn of the century, the citizens of Stockton voted to create a high school district so that a separate high school campus could be established. This new school, Stockton High, opened in September of 1904.

Private schools above the grammar school level in early San Joaquin County were few in number, small in size, and with the one exception of the Catholic St. Agnes' Academy in Stockton, were relatively short-lived. The earliest, opened under the direction of Dr. Henry W. Hunt, was called Hunt's Female Seminary, and was opened in 1854. It was located on El Dorado Street, between Park and Flora streets. By 1873 enrollment had dropped to seven students, and it closed its doors at the end of that term. Dr. Cyrus Collins opened his Stockton Female Seminary in March, 1859, in the block bounded by Park, Oak, Hunter and San Joaquin streets; under Dr. William Van Doren it became co-educational in 1861, but despite the inclusion of male students, it too "went under" before the opening of the Woodbridge Seminary. In 1866 a "college" was opened in the Henrietta House at the intersection of the present Mariposa and Jack Tone roads east of Stockton. This was the location of a number of homes and several other buildings, including an early grammar school, and was known as "Eight Mile Corners." Today it is known as Collegeville, a reminder of that early institution which lasted only eight years due to a fire which burned the wood-frame building to the ground in 1874.

St. Agnes' Academy, built south of Mormon Channel in Stockton two years after the Collegeville fire and three years before the opening of the Woodbridge Seminary in 1879, continues down to the present time as an area-wide Catholic parochial school--St. Mary's High School. But its presence during the time of the operation of the Brethren school at Woodbridge in no way affected enrollment at the latter institution due to the denominational nature of each one.

4. At this time (1878-79) the nearest railroad was the Central Pacific line running north-south through the county (from Sacramento through Stockton) and the station referred to would be the Lodi depot.
5. While Brethren congregations had much freedom in the operation of their local churches, the denomination was governed through state conferences as well as a national conference. Matters concerning state-wide operation of the business affairs of the Church were handled by the state conference delegates, while national policy and decisions came from the national conference level.
6. The United Brethren in Christ Church grew out of the general reform movements within the Protestant communion in North America. Its founding is usually dated from a meeting of reform-oriented Protestant leaders held at a Lancaster County (Pennsylvania) farm circa 1767. Leaders of the new movement which developed out of this religious meeting were Philip William Otterbein and Martin Boehm.

Otterbein had come to Pennsylvania in 1752 as a missionary from Holland. He accepted a call from the Reformed Congregation at Lancaster, and then in turn served congregations at Tulpehocken, Pennsylvania, at Frederick, Maryland, and then at York in Pen-

nsylvania. About the time the Revolutionary War started Reverend Otterbein accepted the call to serve the Reformed Church in Baltimore.

Martin Boehm, born in Lancaster, was about twenty-seven years of age when Otterbein arrived to assume his first new world missionary assignment. Although chosen to be a preacher by the Mennonite congregation of which he was a member, he soon leaned toward a more evangelical bent. He was finally expelled from the Mennonite Church--while Otterbein was able to continue in his Reformed Church ministry despite his evangelical leanings.

It was not until 1789, however, that a new, separate church was organized by the two men and other evangelical preachers--this was the date of the first official conference of the United Brethren in Christ Church.

In 1946 the U. B. C. Church formally merged with the Evangelical Church, creating the new Evangelical United Brethren Church. Like the Brethren Church, the Evangelical sect had been founded among the German-speaking settlers in Pennsylvania. It was officially organized as a distinct Protestant church on November 3, 1803, under the leadership of a lay preacher, Jacob Albright.

In 1968 the Evangelical United Brethren Church was in turn merged into the larger Methodist Church, creating the present United Methodist Church. Locally this merger came at about the same time that the state purchased the United Brethren's Woodruff Memorial Evangelical Church. The majority of the local congregation accepted membership in Stockton's United Methodist churches. Those who felt the need for association with a less conservative-oriented church joined various local evangelically-oriented congregations, such as the Evangelical Methodist Church.

7. Individual Brethren were among the Americans who began arriving in California in the 1840's, and they continued to do so following the discovery of gold in the Mother Lode. Among them were a few ministers of the denomination, and a few who had arrived as preachers of other denominations but became converts while serving as itinerant preachers in the mining camps. Development of organized congregations was a slow process, partly because the Church was still ministering mostly to the people of German background, and partly because those Brethren who came during the gold rush remained scattered throughout a rather fluid populace.

The arrival in 1858 of the Reverend Israel Sloane on the Brethren's missionary society marks the beginning of a real attempt to organize congregations among the resident and in-coming Californians. In 1861 the general conference recognized California as a missionary-conference district following the organization of a California Conference that January. Although appointed its first bishop in 1861, the Reverend Daniel Shuck was unable to come out to the West Coast to assume his official duties until 1864 because of the Civil War. (Shuck died at the age of 73 at the turn of the century at his home in Woodbridge--where he was associated with the college--and was buried in the cemetery there.)

Total church membership in California in 1865 was reported at 235, and due to the great distances involved in ministering to these numerous small groups scattered throughout northern and central California, the state was divided into two districts: the Humboldt County and the Sacramento Valley districts. The south half of the state, temporarily relegated to the background when the discovery of gold brought thousands of gold-seekers to the north, was still ignored by the church as late as 1865. Two years later the area lying between the Calaveras and Mokelumne rivers was detached from the original Sacramento District and formed into the Stockton Mission, but there were still no services in either city even at that late date. In fact, the first attempt to organize a congregation in Stockton came only in 1908 (see details in footnote 8).

8. One of the weaknesses of the Church (in terms of growth and numbers) lay in its failure to move into the early cities and aggressively seek converts; it put its energy instead into serving rural areas and in supporting foreign, overseas missions. At the turn of the century, when California was already celebrating its golden anniversary of statehood, the U. B. C. Church reported only 839 members in its California Conference, with eighteen organized churches and only eleven church buildings.

The Reverend J. L. Field served as the first pastor of the Woodbridge United Brethren Church. Its association with the San Joaquin Valley College from 1879 until its closing in 1897 gave it a position of pre-eminence among the Brethren churches of California. By the turn of the century, however, with the demise of the school and the rapid growth of Lodi instead of Woodbridge, it became apparent that its days were numbered. By 1917 the congregation had dwindled to a few families and continued independent support of the church was no

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longer feasible for its members. At the June, 1917, California conference of the Church the Superintendent of the Sacramento District, Reverend L. S. Woodruff, announced to the assembled delegates the decision to close the Woodbridge church: "Woodbridge is the mother church of the California Conference, but it now seems advisable to abandon this old and sacred field and in accordance with the order of the last quarterly conference held June 1, I report it as abandoned church property and recommend that it pass to the proper board of trustees to be sold and the money be put in Stockton toward the erection of the main auditorium there."

The bell from the Woodbridge church, cast in Baltimore, Maryland, the same year the church had been opened (1878), was moved to Stockton following closure of the Woodbridge church, and installed in the belfry of Stockton's first United Brethren in Christ Church at Washington and Stanislaus streets. This edifice had been built in 1910 under the leadership of the Reverend L. S. Woodruff (mentioned above), who had arrived in Stockton in January, 1908. Upon settling in Stockton he had organized a congregation and services were held in the Druids' Hall on East Main Street until the new church was completed two years later. In 1928 a second and larger church was built at Lafayette and Stanislaus streets and the bell was moved to this structure. It was officially named the "Woodruff Memorial Evangelical Church" and continued in use until the church was closed on February 23, 1969, following its purchase by the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) the previous month as it was in the path of the proposed "crosstown freeway." Before demolition of the building in March of 1971 the bell was transferred to the United Methodist Church of Meadow Vista, California (near Auburn), according to Mrs. Rudolph (Esther) Rojahn of Stockton. Mrs. Rojahn is a daughter of the late Reverend Woodruff and was a very active member of the Stockton congregation from its inception in 1908 until its merger with the Methodist Church in 1968.

9. J. Russell Davis, *From Saddlebags to Satellites--A History of the Evangelical United Brethren Church in California, 1849-1962* (San Diego, California: Keystone Agency, 1963), p. 89-90.
10. Miss Carrie Ellis had received her education at the Napa Seminary, a private school for girls. In 1885 she married Freeman B. Mills of Lodi. Some of their descendants are still living in Lodi.
11. The history of the San Joaquin and Sierra Nevada Railroad was detailed in the July-September, 1975, issue of the *San Joaquin Historian* (Vol. XI, No. 3). The Pacific Insane Asylum, under the direction of Dr. Asa Clark, was located in Woodbridge from 1871 until its transfer to a new facility in Stockton in 1877. For further information on this hospital see the July-September, 1976, issue of the *San Joaquin Historian* (Vol. XII, No. 3).
12. Quote taken from an article on Woodbridge College in the *Lodi News Sentinel* of May 18, 1956.
13. Admission to the college program required prior completion of the Preparatory Course (that would be similar to graduation from high school today) or its equivalent.
14. This did not prevent Professor Mobley from proudly stating his pleasure when students did join the church. In his report to the trustees dated May 1, 1884, he wrote, "A revival of religion occurred during this term which materially advantaged the school and in which eleven students were converted. For this we most sincerely bless Almighty God for we recognize in these revivals the true hope of the college as well as the church." In his report of May 24, 1886, he stated, "The religious influence has been the most pleasing feature in our work. A gracious revival resulted in the conversion of sixteen of our students, most of whom have thus far remained steadfast. A good, lively, young people's prayer meeting has been in active operation since the revival."
15. In his May, 1891, report to the trustees Professor Mobley recommended that calisthenics be made obligatory upon all students, subject to the supervision of the faculty, but there is no indication that the recommendation was acted upon.
16. Arthur Levinsky's father, John, had built a general merchandise store in Woodbridge in the early 1860's. In 1874 a second story was added to this building and it was used as a lodge room for the I.O.O.F. fraternal group. It has been in continuous lodge use down to the present time.
17. When one takes into consideration the relatively small number of Brethren in the whole of California as late as the year 1900--839 registered members and only eighteen congregations in a state with a total population of 1,485,000 (see footnote 7)--it is not surprising to find that they were finally forced to close the college before the turn of the century. What is surprising is that they were able to support this school for so long (1879 to 1897)! This was truly

a remarkable accomplishment--one that can only be attributed to the zeal, hard work, and self-sacrifice of the members of this small but devoted church denomination.

18. President's Report to the Board of Trustees, May 28, 1888.
19. While this was a strong and dramatic prediction, when the college did close much of what Mobley had predicted came to pass. Even the congregation of the United Brethren Church began to decline in numbers and eventually it became inactive. (The church building was finally declared abandoned in 1917.) Nearby Lodi, in the meantime, had grown quite rapidly and was by this time the business and cultural center of the area. Woodbridge reached its peak about 1875 when its population exceeded 300, and its decline set in even before the closing of the college. With the loss of the institution Woodbridge had lost its one drawing card, its only claim to fame and prestige.
20. The "Panic of '93" along the eastern seaboard caused a delayed recession which was felt out in the western states during 1894-95.
21. The Northern San Joaquin County Historical Society was the predecessor of today's county-wide Society, sponsor of this quarterly. For a brief history of the organization, originally founded in October of 1954 as the Lodi District Historical Society, see the October-December, 1974, *San Joaquin Historian* (Vol. X, No. 4).

(To Be Continued in Next Issue)

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